

John Davis

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Education

University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD)

University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
Master of Business Administration (MBA)

Belhaven University, Jackson, Mississippi
Master of Science in Leadership (MSL)

University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
Bachelor of Science (BS)

Experience

1992-Present

Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS)

Executive Director – January 2016

Appointed to the position of Executive Director by Governor Phil Bryant and Confirmed by the Mississippi Senate. The organization has an annual budget in excess of \$3 Billion with 4200 employees serving 1 out of every 4 adults and 1 out of every 3 children in the State of Mississippi with offices in all 82 counties.

Deputy Administrator for Programs

Appointed to the position of Deputy Administrator of the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) after serving as the Director of the MDHS Division of Economic Assistance (DEA).

Office Director, Division of Economic Assistance (DEA)

State Welfare Director: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP formerly Food Stamp Program), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and TANF Work Program.

Worked on the local, regional and state level. Appointed by Governor Kirk Fordice as the Director of the Lincoln County Department of Human Services (1998) until appointment (2005) to the position of Director of State Operations for DEA.

State Operations Director, DEA

County Director, Lincoln County Department of Human Services

Projects Officer IV, State Policy MDHS

Program Specialist, State Trainer MDHS

Social Worker

BOARDS: State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) Executive Board
Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
U.S. Interstate Commission for Juveniles
State Longitudinal Data Studies (SLDS) Executive Board
State Supreme Court Families First Initiative
Policy Academy for State Strategies

2013 – Present Belhaven University, Jackson Mississippi
Adjunct Professor – Graduate and Undergraduate courses taught:
BSM325/Lecture/20
BSM380/Lecture/0512
MPA607/Lecture/11
MSL658/Lecture/009
MSL630/Lecture/10
MBA624/Lecture/741

Accomplishments Recognized nationally with *the Award for Accuracy and Stewardship in the Food Stamp Program*.

Ranked 3rd in the nation and 1st in the Southeast Region for payment accuracy in the Food Stamp Program.

Received \$1,986,833 bonus payment from FNS for payment accuracy in the Food Stamp Program.

Received the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Award of Excellence for the administration of the Food Stamp Program.

Received the *Quality Control Star Award* from USDA, FNS in recognition of the proactive commitment to public trust by developing an efficient quality control system for measuring the accuracy of Food Stamp performance.

Received the *FNS Excellence Through Technology Award* in recognition of efforts to move forward with technological advancements that surpass most of the states in the Southeastern Region.

Received a Food Stamp Participation Grant in the amount of \$443,005.28 for system enhancements that will provide better customer service.

Recognized by FNS as one of eight states in the nation with the most improved

program access index in the Food Stamp Program and awarded \$1,396,703.

Coordinated the Mississippi Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan's Emergency Support Function 6 (ESF6), Mass Care, with 283 *state shelters* opened as a result of Hurricane Katrina which served 17,800 *individuals*.

Coordinated the Disaster Food Stamp Program after Hurricane Katrina in 23 federally declared disaster counties certifying 521,679 individuals representing 186,765 households with food stamp benefits totaling \$110,836,512.

Received the FNS Humanitarian and Disaster Preparedness Response Awards for the extraordinary example of personal commitment and sacrifice for the greater good of all Mississippi citizens.

Coordinated efforts to increase the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Work Program Participation Rate from 19.30% in 2004 to 66.95% in 2007.

Received \$4,982,778 TANF High Performance Bonus awards from the Administration of Children and Families (ACF).

Coordinated the development of the Mississippi Healthy Marriage Initiative to collaborate with community organizations, educational institutions and faith-based groups to provide the appropriate skills based relationship education and services to youth and unmarried couples.

Coordinated efforts to present the "Just Wait" Abstinence message to more than 37,000 Mississippi children.

Received the 2008 Director's Cup Award from the Food and Nutrition Service Southeast Region for excellence in program administration.

Coordinated in FY2007 the collection of over \$4.8 million in over-issuance dollars, achieving the highest percentage of monies collected for established claims in the Food and Nutrition Services Southeast Region.

Coordinated the Mississippi Abstinence Summit that included over 5,000 youths, community and faith based leaders who participated in the day-long event at the Mississippi Coliseum, featuring the Lt. Governor, State Officials and nationally recognized speakers focusing on Abstinence.

Coordinated efforts that resulted in Mississippi completing FY2007 with a payment accuracy rate of 97.34% well above the national average and receiving \$1.6 million for being in the top four states in the nation.

Coordinated effort that resulted in Mississippi completing FY2007 with a state reported participation rate of 66.95% which was above the national requirement of 50%.

Appointed by Governor Haley Barbour to the Policy Academy on State Strategies: Workforce Policies to Address Worker and Employer Needs.

Appointed by Governor Phil Bryant to the State Workforce Investment Board.

Coordinated efforts to outsource Child Support Enforcement in seventeen Southwest Mississippi Counties followed by Statewide privatization. This effort will lead to better county operations and is projected to save in excess of 1 million dollars per year in administrative costs.

Lead the creation of the national pilot program that will prevent Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) fraud/double dipping with the National Accuracy Clearinghouse (NAC) by creating multi-state data sharing models. If used by states nationwide with an estimated savings of 193.4 million nationwide by reducing dual participation.

Created a Workforce Development division to assist TANF and SNAP recipients find gainful employment. Developed partnerships with Community Colleges, Department of Employment Security, and Department of Education to align agency resources to create pathways that do not duplicate services but instead maximizes resources available thus moving individuals to self-sufficiency in the most effective and efficient manner possible.

Developed a higher quality early childhood system that will meet the educational and developmental needs of Mississippi's children by moving to a family based unified and integrated early childhood system that maximizes resources and measures student outcomes to make sure children enter school ready to learn.

Strengthened partnerships with Family First Resource Centers to enhance direct services and collaboration between all MS family programs to impact the whole family while meeting specific needs of individual family members as we help them reach self-sufficiency.

Implemented the ABAWDS (Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents) Work Program- SNAP dependence has been reduced by approximately 100,000 recipients since the announcement that MDHS would not seek the ABAWD waiver. There has been estimated \$180 million in SNAP savings after the first 18 months of implementation.

Created a division of Internal Audit to elevate the transparency with all policies and procedures thus ensuring integrity and protecting the public trust of MDHS.

Reduced the dependence on State General Funds by more than 30% and continues to find efficiencies by consolidated divisions and programs within the agency.

Have joined the 2 Gen (Gen +) approach for delivering services which helps the Family as a whole instead of individually. The program serves hundreds of thousands of Mississippians in their quest for self-reliance being orchestrated by the dedicated staff and partners of MDHS agency in each of the 82 counties throughout the state.

Recipient of the Edward Dalstrom Distinguished Service Award.

Successfully completed eight mission trips to Central and South America with the Baptist Medical and Dental Mission.

Sixth generation member of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church.